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TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Membership

Representative Joe Deshotel



Biographical Information

Joe represents the 22nd Legislative District, which includes parts of Jefferson and Orange Counties. He is a successful attorney, businessman and life-long resident of Beaumont. First elected in 1998, Rep. Deshotel has distinguished himself in each of the sessions he has served. After the end of the 76th Legislative Session, the Legislative Study Group (LSG), the largest caucus in the House, presented Representative Deshotel with the Rising Star Award. The award is given to only three representatives of the 25-member freshman class and is given to honor their outstanding dedication and achievement. In the 77th Legislative session, his colleagues in the Texas Legislative Black Caucus elected him Chairman of that legislative body. In the 7th Legislative session, he served on powerful committees, and used his positions to make sure that all voices were heard.

Representative Deshotel serves on the powerful House Appropriations Committee. He is also the Vice Chair of Local & Consent Calendars, the Chairman of Budget Oversight (CBO) for the House Elections Committee, and will serve on the Select Committee on State Health Care Expenditures.

The Appropriations Committee is the budget writing arm of the House, and along with the Senate Finance and Governors Office, decides where Texas spending priorities will lie and how they will get funded. Rep. Deshotel is one of only twenty-nine members to serve on the Appropriations Committee. There are 150 members in the House.

Rep. Deshotel also serves as the Vice Chair of Local & Consent Calendars, which decides when bills with local impact will be heard on the floor. While also serving as a member of the Appropriations Committee, Joe will be the CBO for the Elections Committee and will be

responsible for coordinating and reporting back to Appropriations the programs and the funding levels of the agencies under its jurisdiction. The Elections Committee is charged with duties and conduct of candidates for public office, persons influencing public policy and the Texas Ethics Committee. While not surprising to those members that work with him, Rep. Deshotel was also appointed to the House Select Committee on State Health Care Expenditures. A new committee, it is charged "to look at all the health care costs of every agency and every program in this state."

Prior to serving on the Legislature, Joe served on the Beaumont City Council and was appointed by Governor Mark White to the Job Training Coordinating Council and Lamar University Board of Regents. He has a strong record as a champion of civil rights and civic responsibility, organizing Lamar University's first NAACP chapter and ensuring that the former Spur 380 was renamed Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway. Joe also served as Vice-President for Administration and Legal Counsel of Lamar University-Beaumont. Joe Deshotel brings experience, insight and knowledgeable leadership to the issue of higher education.

Deshotel's background and experience as an attorney and small businessman will ensure responsible and effective representation for Southeast Texas. Joe has been married for 17 years to the former Claudia Darjean of Opelousas, Louisiana. He is the proud father of Southwest Texas University student W. Joseph Deshotel.

HONORS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Education

- Judicial doctorate degree. Texas Southern University. Thurgood Marshall Law Center. 1978.
- Bachelor of Science degree. Political Science. Lamar University. 1974.

Texas House of Representatives

- Committee on Appropriations. Member. 2003.
- Committee on Local & Consent Calendars. Vice Chairman. 2003.
- Committee on Elections. Chairman of Budget & Oversight. 2003.
- Select Committee on State Health Care Expenditures. Member. 2003.
- Texas Legislative Black Caucus. Chairman. 2001-2003.
- Communities in Schools. Board Member. 2002-2003.
- *Rising Star Award*. Legislative Study Group. 1999.
- American Legislative Exchange Council. Member. 1999 - present.
- Task Force on Tax & Fiscal Policy Committee. Member.
- National Conference of State Legislators. Member 1999 - present.
- Education, Labor & Workforce Development Committee. Member.
- Texas Spindletop Centennial Commission. Ex-officio member. 1999.

Other Government

- United States Air Force Reserves. Honorable Discharge. Technical Sergeant.
- State Job Training Coordinating Council. Member, appointed by Governor Mark White. 1986.
- Beaumont City Council. Ward 3.

- Beaumont City Council. At-large.
- Lamar University Board of Regents, appointed by Governor Mark White.

Professional

- Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission. 3rd Vice President, 1984. 1st Vice-President, 1986.
- Vice-President for Administration and Legal Counsel, Lamar University. Beaumont.
- State Bar of Texas. Agriculture Law Committee.
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Member.
- NAACP. Life Member.
- Texas Association of Trial Lawyers. Member.
- National Home Builders Association. Member.
- Jefferson County Bar Association. Board of Directors.
- National Association of College and University Attorney's, Conference Planning Committee.
- The Baptist Hospital System. Board of Advisors.
- National Organization on Legal Problems of Education.

Church

- Our Mother of Mercy School. School Board President.
- Our Mother of Mercy Parish Council.
- Distinguished Graduate. Department of Elementary Schools. Catholic affiliated.

Community

- Monsignor Kelly High School. School Board President.
- Jefferson County Red Cross. Board of Directors.
- Jefferson County 100 Club. Board of Directors.
- Knights of Saint Peter Claver. Board of Directors. Legal Counsel.